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# Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:ARZT
APPROVED BY: S/S-O: KUCHEL
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S E C R E T STATE 067361

EXDIS MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

PERSONAL FOR GENERAL SEITH FROM AMBASSADOR BRUCE.

FOL REPEAT OF NATO 1641 TO SECSTATE LISBON INFO DUBLIN BRUSSELS OTTAWA

COPENHAGEN PARIS BONN ATHENS REYKJAVIK ROME LUXEMBOURG OSLO THE
HAGUE LONDON MAR 25

QTE:
S E C R E T USNATO 1641

EXDIS

FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN FROM BRUCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO
SUBJ: NATO DISCUSSIONS ON PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS

DEPT ALSO PASS USNMR SHAPE PERSONAL FOR GENERAL SEITH FROM
AMBASSADOR BRUCE

REF: (A) STATE 66711; (B) USNATO 1612; (C) LISBON 1674

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT MARCH 25 MEETING OF NATO PORTUGUESE GROUP, SYG
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LUNS FAVORED NATO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIONS TO PORTUGUESE ABOUT THE

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IMPORTANCE OF FREE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY. THE U.K. AMBASSADOR REPORTED ON HIS LISBON COLLEAGUE'S CALL ON PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. FRG CHARGE DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF TALKING POINTS FOR GERMAN APPROACH TO COSTA GOMES. ALL PARTICIPANTS, WITH EXCEPTION OF FRANCE, FAVORED APPROACHES BY THE EC-NINE BOTH COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY. THE FRG CHARGE NOTED THAT SOME CIRCLES IN BONN THINK IT MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY TO LINK PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE CONVENING OF STAGE III OF CSCE. AMBASSADOR BRUCE URGED THE ALLIES TO MAKE PROMPT APPROACHES TO THE PORTUGUESE. END SUMMARY.

1. MARCH 25 MEETING OF NATO PORTUGUESE GROUP IN SYG'S PRIVATE CONFERENCE ROOM WAS ATTENDED BY UK AMBASSADOR PECK, WHO HAD RETURNED TO BRUSSELS. GREECE WAS NOT REPRESENTED. OTHER AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES SAME AS AT MARCH 24 MEETING.

2. SYG LUNS OPENED MEETING BY SAYING THE SOCIALISTS IN PORTUGAL MUST BE ENCOURAGED TO RESIST ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS THEIR ACTIVITIES. HE DOES NOT THINK THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS WISH TO PUSH THINGS TOO RAPIDLY AT THIS TIME. SYG CONSIDERS IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR NATO COUNTRIES TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FREE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY.

3. NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR HARTOGH STATED THAT HIS COLLEAGUE IN LISBON HAS SEEN SOARES AND TALKED TO HIM ALONG THE LINES WHICH THE BRISITSH HAVE FOLLOWED, WICH HARTOGH REFERRED TO AS "THE RIGHTS OF MAN".

4. UK AMBASSADOR PECK, JUST RETURNED FROM VACATION, REPORTED THAT THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD SEEN PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, BUT WAS UNABLE TO ELICIT OTHER THAN GENRALXITIES FROM HIM. COSTA GOMES OBSERVED THAT ELECTIONS, AFTER A PERIOD OF ALMOST 50 YEARS WHEN THEY HAVE NOT BEEN HELD, WILL NOT REFLECT THE TRUE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE, AND EMPHASIZED THAT POLITICAL POWER RESIDED IN THE AFM. COSTA GOMES ALSO REMARKED THAT THE FOREIGN PRESS WAS HOSTILE.

5. FRG CHARGE BOSS CIRCULATED COPIES OF FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS TO BE USED BY THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN LISBON IN AN APPROACH TO COSTA GOMES.

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BEGIN TEXT:

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AFTER 25 APRIL 1974 WITH GREAT ATTENTION, SYMPATHY AND HOPE BECAUSE THEY OPENED FOR THIS FRIENDLY AND ALLIED COUNTRY A WAY WHICH ENABLES IT TO COPPERATE MORE CLOSELY WITH EUROPE AND WHICH IS TO GIVE THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE THEIR LONG-DESIRED FREEDOM. WE ASSUME THAT THIS AIM OF A FREE AND

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PLURALIST DEMORCRACY HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED BY THE ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT OF 11 MARCH. IN PARTICULAR, WE CONFIDENTLY HOPE THAT THESE EVENTS WILL IN NO WAY AFFECT OUR COPPERATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE OR PORTUGAL'S PROGRESS TOWARDS CLOSER TIES WITH EUROPE. THE DECLARATIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT ON THE CONTINUATION OF ITS ALLIANCE POLICY ARE A SOURCE OF SATISFACTION FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THE FREE ELECTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUTIVE ASSEMBLY, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON 25 APRIL, WILL NOT BE OBSTRUCTED.

OUR CONCERN IS AN EXPRESSION OF OUR SOLIDARITY AS WELL AS OF THE WILLINGNESS TO HELP, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, IN THE BUILD-UP OF A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY ON THE BASIS OX FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY.

END TEXT.

6. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE ROSE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS OPPOSED TO AN APPROACH BY THE EC-NINE OR EVEN BILATERAL DEMARCHES. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FRANCE, ALL PARTICIPANTS FAVORED THE EC-NINE ENTERING THE FRAY AND ALSO THOUGHT THAT INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL APPROACHES SHOULD BE MADE. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION AS TO HOW THE ABSTENTION OF THE FRENCH WOULD AFFECT THIS EFFORT.

7 THE SYG SAID HE OPPOSED USING THREATS OF WITHHOLDING ECONOMIC AID TO BRING PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL AT THIS TIME. IN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EXISTING ECONOMIC DETERIORATION IN THAT COUNTRY, LUNS CONTINUED, PORTUGAL'S LEADERS CAN DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS AS TO HOW THEIR ECONOMY IS BEING UNDERMINED.

8. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR CATALANO SAID THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IS BEING CAUTIOUS ABOUT ENCOURAGING THE OPERATIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY.
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9. FRG CHARGE BOSS SAID SOME CIRCLES IN BONN FEEL STRONGLY THAT CONTINUED DETERIORATION OF THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION COULD AFFECT GERMAN WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED TO STAGE III OF CSCE. THE SYG AND TURKISH AMBASSADOR ERALP EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT AN APPROPRIATE USE OF THE PHASE III OF CSCE IS A POTENTIALLY VALUABLE CARD IN WESTERN HANDS.

10. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR MENZIES OBSERVED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT FAVORS SPEAKING TO THE PORTUGUESE EITHER IN OTTAWA OR IN LISBON. IF SOARES IS REPLACED AND THERE IS A NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, PERHAPS THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR, THE SENIOR NATO ENVOY IN LISBON, SHOULD ASK THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO BRIEF THE NATO AMBASSAODRS.

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11. AMBASSADOR BRUCE FOLLOWED HIS INSTRUCTIONS (REFA) TO:
(A) URGE THE ALLIES TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN BILATERALLY TO PORTUGAL.
(B) IF ALLIED VIEWS ARE TO HAVE ANY INFLUENCE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION, THE SOONER THEY ARE CONVEYED THE BETTER.
(C) WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT THE EC-NINE ACT AS A UNIT, AS WELL AS EACH MEMBER ACTING BILATERALLY, AND THAT SUCH ACTION BE PROMPT.

12. ONCE AGAIN THE ALLIES MADE KNOWN THEIR KEEN INTEREST IN WHAT, IF ANY, APPROACHES WE HAD MADE TO THE SOVIETS. BURUCE ANWERED THAT THE PORTUGUESE QUESTION HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE USSR, AND THAT WE DO NOT NOW INTEND TO APPROACH THE USSR ON THIS SUBJECT.

13. BRUCE INFORMED THE GROUP THAT AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI HAS AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE COSTA GOMES THIS AFTERNOON, AND READ EXCERPTS FROM EMBASSY LISBON DCM'S CONVERSATION WITH MANUEL SA MACHADO (REF C), IN WHICH THEY WERE GREATLY INTERESTED.

14. AT CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, THE SYG ANNOUNCED HE WOULD CALL GROUP TOGETHER AGAIN IF AND WHEN DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL SEEM TO WARRANT IT.BRUCE UNQTE KISSINGER

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** ALLIANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 25 MAR 1975
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
**Document Number:** 1975STATE067361
**Document Source:** CORE
**Document Unique ID:** 00
**Drafter:** O:ARZT
**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** GS
**Errors:** N/A
**Film Number:** D750104-0415
**From:** STATE
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Image Path:**
**ISecure:** 1
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750317/aaaaaotl.tel
**Line Count:** 192
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
**Office:** ORIGIN SS
**Original Classification:** SECRET
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Page Count:** 4
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Previous Classification:** SECRET
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS
**Reference:** 75 STATE 66711, 75 USNATO 1612, 75 LISBON 1674
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED
**Review Authority:** CunninFX
**Review Comment:** n/a
**Review Content Flags:**
**Review Date:** 16 APR 2003
**Review Event:**
**Review Exemptions:** n/a
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review
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**Review Media Identifier:**
**Review Referrals:** n/a
**Review Release Date:** n/a
**Review Release Event:** n/a
**Review Transfer Date:**
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** NATO DISCUSSIONS ON PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS DEPT ALSO PASS USNMR SHAPE PERSONAL FOR GENERAL SEITH FROM
**TAGS:** PFOR, PO, NATO
**To:** USNMR SHAPE
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

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